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Controller Urges Agencies to Prioritize Claims So Most Vulnerable Are First to Be Paid

SACRAMENTO – State Controller John Chiang today urged State agencies and departments to prioritize backlogged funding claims to ensure California nursing homes, day care operators, community colleges, small businesses and others that have suffered during this budget stalemate are first in line to be paid.

“I am concerned not only about the fiscal hardship the delay has caused many vendors, small businesses and service providers, but also the personal toll on vulnerable Californians – the sick, elderly, disabled, and children – who look to the state to fund the critical public services upon which they rely,” Chiang said in his letter. “My office is committed to quickly and efficiently processing the backlog of claims arising from the budget delay.”

In his letter, the Controller said that while the law allows him 15 days to review, process and pay standard claims, he hopes to reduce that time to 7-10 days. In addition, the Controller’s Office provides an expedited process to turn around critical payments within 1-3 days. Controller Chiang announced he would temporarily waive the fee usually charged to agencies that request expedited claims.

To accomplish these goals, the Controller has redirected additional employees to assist in processing the estimated 60,000-plus claims that have gone unpaid since July 1.

In his letter, the Controller urged agency heads to submit claims electronically when able, and to prioritize their claims to ensure “those truly critical claims...will be placed at the front of the work queue.

“Because you are most aware of the vulnerable populations that you serve and special circumstances that arise within your realm of responsibility, your cooperation is essential to the orderly payment of claims that most deserve expedited attention,” Chiang wrote.

A copy of the [letter](#) is available on the Controller’s website at sco.ca.gov.

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